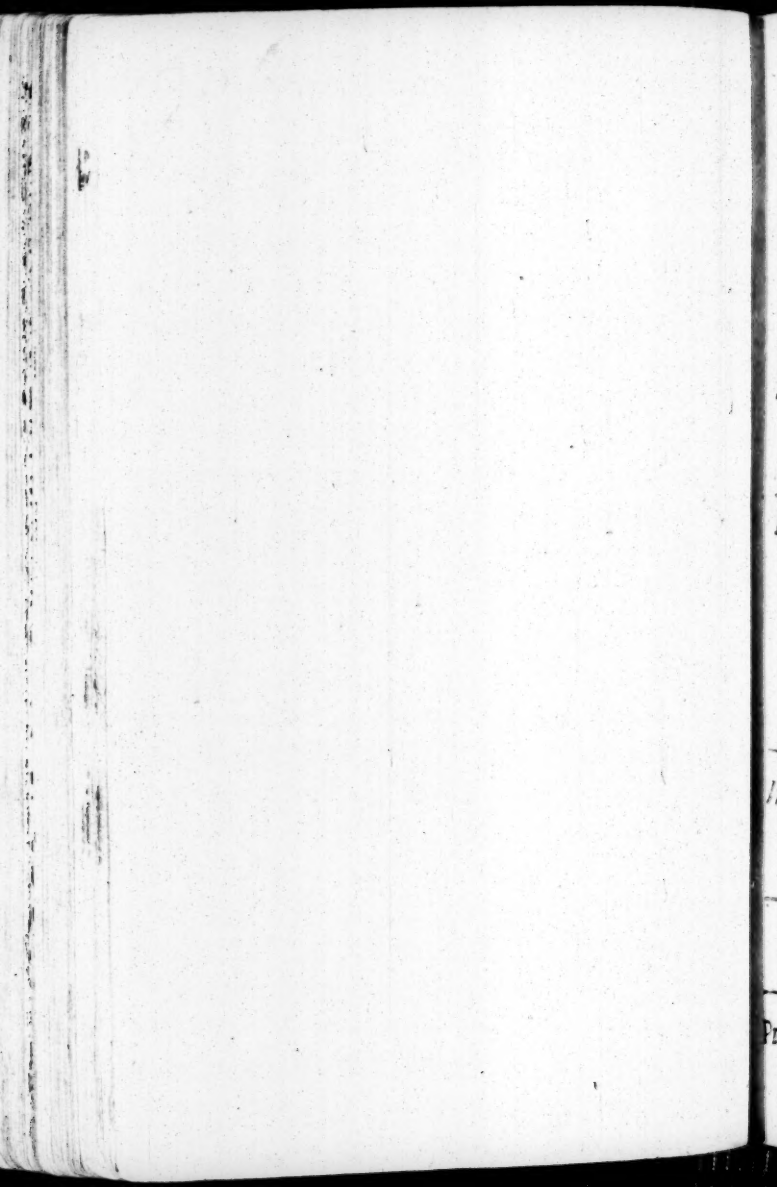


The Famous History of the Valiant
London-Prentice.

(74)



Printed for *J. Back*, at the Sign of the
Black-Boy on *London-Bridge*. 1686.



THE
Famous History
OF
AURELIUS,
The VALIANT
London-PRENTICE
SHEWING

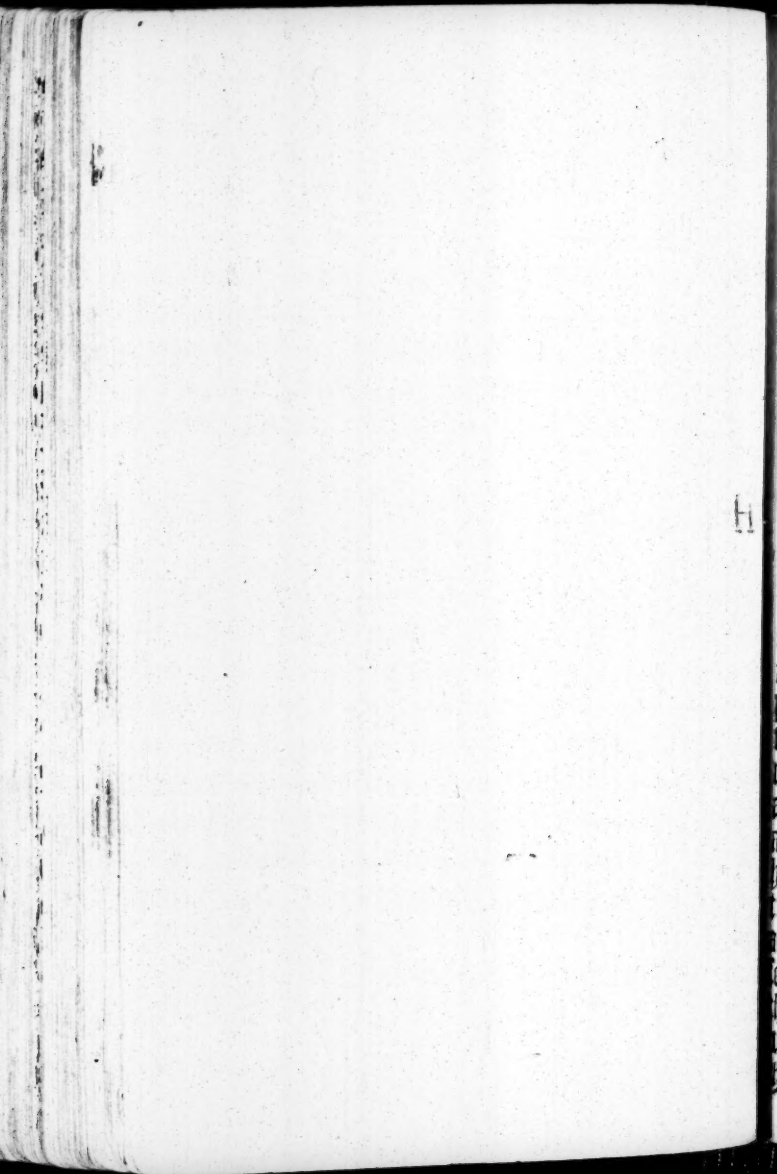
His Noble Exploits at *home*
and *abroad*, his LOVE, and
Great Success.

Very Pleasant and Delightful.

Written for Incouragement of Youth,
By J. S.

This may be Printed, R. P.

Printed for J. Back, at the Sign of the
Black Boy on London-Bridge.





The History of the
London-Prentice, &c.

C H A P. I.

An account of his Birth, Education, and early Valour, &c.

IN times past, there was Born in the famous County of Cheshire, a young Man of excellent beauty, promising very great things, even in his infancy; to promote which, his Parents being wealthy, spared not to Educate or bring him up in the best manner the Country wou'd afford, nor did he, as he grew up, fail in any thing their expectation. In learning he was well seen, and in many other matters, but nothing so enflamed his mind as the desire of Exercising himself in feats of Arms, and was the more incited thereto by Reading the famous adventures of Knights-Errent how successful they were in over-coming Giants and

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Monsters,

The famous History of the

Monsters, and rescuing beauteous Ladies from death and misery; and as these heroick thoughts increased, so he found his strength abound, nature not sparing to give him manly limbs and an able body, so that in his Childish Encounters, those that far surpassed him in Years, were not able to resist his force, nor come near him in Wrestling, Jumping, Running, casting the Bar, Stone or Dart; which made not his Parents but a little proud of such a blessing, whom they had named Aurelius, as one that promised great things.

C H A P. II.

An account of his first adventures and Enterprizes, where he won the Virgins hearts, &c.

When Aurelius was at the age of fourteen, he went to a Wake or Merry meeting to recreate himself with other Youths of the Country, where he so well behaved himself, that his courage, activity, strength and beauty, gained great applause, and took so mainly with the Virgins, that some of them began to feel

Valiant London-Prentice.

a feabour in their minds, which Cupid who at such merry meetings is seldome wanting in Promoting the Business of Love, failed not to increase, but he as yet not capable of feeling the flame of passion that way, regarded not their amorous glances, nor understood the silent Language of inflamed hearts, though it notwithstanding created him those Enemies that were causelessly jealous of him as a most dangerous Rival, and who gathered their reason for it from the many praises their Mistresses bestowed on him in his absence.

C H A P. III.

How the fair *Lucinda* fell in love with him, and how those she despised for his sake, conspir'd against him.

Our Youth increasing his Strength and beauty with his years, and continuing as occasion offered to appear in publick amongst those admiring Virgins that in a manner doted on him and often wished to be Mistres of his affections: *Lucinda* the fair Daughter of a wealthy Shepherd was the chief who sought by

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many

many ways to oblige him, and to let him understand her passion; but modestly sealing her Lips, he did not, or would not interpret her dumb signs, but kept on his Government, without any regard of her passion; which made her sigh and grow melancholy, refusing to entertain the Addresses of those that adored her, and doted on her Beauties more than she did on those that adorned our Wretched Youth. This sudden alteration made them restless till they knew the cause of it which was not long ere they did from her Virgin Companions to whom she had droped some words of her passion; as likewise by a Letter she had written in order to send to him by a truely hand, but had accidentally droped it, in which were these words:

Dear Aurelius, seeing you do not understand the Language of a Love-sick Virgins Eyes, pardon my Boldness, if with Blushes I have taken the liberty to let you know **Lucinda** doats on you, and begs you would requite her Love with Love, who for your sake, renounces the rest of Mankind: Then have Compassion or **Lucinda** must be miserable.

Subscribed *Lucinda.*

This

This giving the Amourists a full knowledge upon whose account they found such cold Entertainment from their beloved Mistresses, whom every one of them feared to loose, they bent their study how to remove that Screen that stood between them and their much-desired happiness; some were of opinion that nothing but the death of Aurelius could effect it; but others of a milder disposition, declared, that it would not onely be too much Cruelty, but bring their own lives in question; therefore considering woman-kind was generally more taken with the Beauty of the Body, than with that of the Soul, they thought it fit to Deface him with a Bayson, but where to get it they knew not, and so came to consult, that disfigure his face, &c. with Wounds might work the same effect, and put an end to the passion of their dear Lucinda, which they knew not any other ways to distinguish.

274 The Famous History of the

C H A P. IV.

How they attempted to destroy Aurelius,
but were overcome and left naked in the
Wood.

THe Plot thus lay'd against our va-
liant youth, many ways were sought
for an opportunity to put it in practice,
till at last they understand he was gone
to pay a visit to an Aunt of his, who li-
ved at a Village about two miles from
his Fathers house, and that he must
return by a Wood: This Lucky
opportunity, as they imagined it,
made them all Leap for Joy, there
being four in number, they Armed them
with mischievous Weapons, and in
disguise, placed themselves in Ambush
under a Thicket of Trees, in the way
he must pass, each Swearing to the o-
ther to keep the thing secret, though
they keep not their Oaths, as you will
hear. Long they had not stayed, but as
they wished, our Valiant Youth not
dreaming of such Treachery, came on,
but hearing the Bushes rattle, he made
a halt to see what it meant, when out
leaped the Lovers, and encompassing
him,

him, after they had uttered many big words, and reviled him at an unseemly rate, they made in to grapple with; who ignorant of their intent, and scorning to stoop to fear, took the two foremost in either hand, and by main force brought their heads together; that they rung like a Barbers Bason; so that stounded with the violent knocks, after staggering some paces, down they fell; and having by this time wrested a Weapon from one of them, he set upon the other two with such fury, that giving them several Wounds, they, when they found the blood run about their ears, fell on their knees, and cryed for mercy, as did the other, who by this time were recovered from their Trance; yet could not they obtain their wish till he had thrashed them into a Confession of the whole matter, and thereby became sensible of the Love Lucinda bore him; and that she might come to the knowledge of what had happened on this occasion, and that their Treachery might be rewarded with disgrace, he caused them to undrip, and with such Tackling as their Garments afforded, he bound them to four several Trees stark-naked, where
these

The Famous History of the
these hot-brain'd Lovers took a fit of
Cooling till the morning, which dis-
covering the whole Intreague, their
rash Valour became for some time af-
ter, the Mock of the Country; but
most of all it pleased the fair Lucinda,
whose favour they lost thereby.

C H A P. V.

How his Father put him Apprentice to a
Merchant, and the leave he took of Lu-
cinda.

THe Father of young Aurelius having
received an exact account of all that
had happened, and fearing these Lovers
might study a further Revenge to re-
pair their Disgrace, as also to prevent
any Amours that might happen between
him and Lucinda, to whom he was not
willing he should be Married; he took
an opportunity to discourse him about
putting himself in a way that might
render him capable of living in Credit
in the World: when finding him ply-
able and ready to submit to what he should
propose, he told him it was his pleasure
he should go to London, and there be put
an Apprentice to some Honourable Cal-
ling,

Valiant London-Prentice.

ling, that he might be a comfort to him in his Old days; and that it should be in his power to chuse him a Master of any Profession. Upon this he had not long considered, e're he rep'y'd, That seeing it was his pleasure, he was contented; and for the desire he had to Travel and see strange Countries, he could fancy none better than a Merchant. To this the Old Man agrees, and shortly after he was sent up to London, and placed to a Turkey Merchant upon London-Bridge, and upon his departure directed these Lines to Lucinda.

Pardon me Beauteous Maid, if Love as yet
No power a Conquest o're me has to get;
That you deserve what e're Love can bestow
I must confesse, but I, alas! must go
And wander o're the Worlde e're I can Love
Then be contented, and for me ne'r grieve,
Subscribed *Aurelius*.

This flat Denyal made the fair Lucinda shed many tears, and bewail her hard fortune, in loving where she was not repayed with an equal passion; but soon after a Rich Farmers Son offering service to her, she having with much struggling overcome her former affection, she
changed

The Famous History of the
changed her passion, and Sacrificed her
Virginity to the pleasure of this new-
come Lover, where Rebelling in excess
of joy, we will leave them, and follow
Aurelius to his new preferment.

C H A P. VI.

How he gained the love of his Master, and
became Enamoured of *Dorinda* his fair
Daughter.

Our Youth upon his Tryal proved
so diligent and respectful, that it
was not long e're he was Bound, accor-
ding to the Custom of the City; and
then doubling his diligence, he won the
love of the whole Family, not omitting
any thing that might please or be for his
Masters Interest; and what time he had
to spare, he imployed in Manly Exer-
cise, of recreating himself in the fen-
cing-School, and in Martial Exploits,
gaining every where the name of a bold
and hardy Youth, and one that promi-
sed great things. In this happy state
he lived near three years, when Fortune
who is as unconstant as the Wind, con-
spired to give him some disturbance, for
Dorinda his Masters Daughter, a beau-
tiful

tiful Virgin of about 14 Years of Age, returning from the School where she had been brought up at Board, her Modesty, winning behaviour, and Charming Graces, by his often gazing on her, prompted him to admire her, and by degrees, to conceive such a passion for that excellent Creature, that he was no longer master of his heart, which his eyes had given away: A while he smothered the flame, but in the end it broke out the fiercer, and then he knew experimentally what Dorinda had suffer'd often, he attempted to discover his passion, and as often fear to offend, stayed the words at his Tongues end, and all he could do, was to sigh and stand confounded in her presence; whilst the innocent Lady would frequently ask the reason, but had no answer, but what his eyes delivered in burning Glances. Thus he continued for a month or more, at the end of which, he resolved one way or other to make his passion known, and soon found an opportunity to drop a Letter in the way of the lovely Dorinda, containing these words:

Beauteous *Dorinda*, after many sighs and eager looks, I have presumed to let you know,

The Famous History of the

know, if this come to your fair hand, that I love you dearer than my own life, and to be requited with your Love, there is not any thing so hazardous that I would not undertake for your sake; the inequality I must confess, is great, yet Love is a power obedient to no Law but his own: pitty me then as a Lover, that love you above all Earthly things, and look not on me as your Fathers Servant, but your devoted Slave, by whose Smiles I live, and without which, my Life must needs be miserable.

Subscribed *Aurelius*.

This did not a little surprize the beauteous Maid, who considered, that although she might have cause to love him, yet he being as then a Servant, it would be highly displeasing to her Parents, if she should countenance his affections; wherefore preferring her duty and obedience before her fancy or the passion of Aurelius, the next time she met him her words were, That she cou'd not but wonder, he should presume to make Love to her who was his Masters daughter, e're half his time was expired, & wished him not to make mention of it any more by Letter or Word,
least

least her Father were made acquainted with it, to his prejudice; and so with a kind of a scornful frown, left him as one in a Maze of Grief.

C H A P. VII.

How he got leave to go for *Turkey*, and what ensued.

Aurelius being thus repulsed in his first Love, found himself altogether restless, and that as often as he beheld his beautiful Mistress, his flame increased, and his torture was more and more augmented; and though he tryed many ways to give way to his labouring mind, he found them in vain, and therefore concluded, unless he was removed from the lovely Object, he must be always miserable; and perceiving her looks and carriage every day more scornful towards him, he resolved to request his Master that he might go for *Turkey* as his Factor, in the next fleet: Which Request of his was granted without much difficulty, and in a gallant Equipage took leave, though not without some tears of his scornful Mistress, who by this time, began

The Famous History of the

gan somewhat to relent that she had so unkindly repulsed his Address; but being young and beautiful, and considering that those advantages, her Indulgent Father would add a large Portion, her thoughts of a higher advancement, hurried that care, and so they parted, the valiant Aurelius to the Ship, and the Lady to her Chamber, where we must leave her, who shortly after married a Rich Merchant, and followed him into Turkey.

C H A P. VIII.

How he arrived in *Turkey*, and of his Reception: How he overthrew the Turks, and killed a Turkish Prince.

THe gallant Aurelius having passed the danger of the Seas, and a while contended with the Storms of Winds and Love, Landed at Constantinople, where he was received with much respect by the English Merchants and Factors residing there, and behaved himself so well in the Management of his Affairs, that he gained a general Esteem; and in all this, he forgot not to exercise his Valour as occasion required.

quired; and being by this time grown to his full strength, he found none able to Encounter him, though he was too Modest to boast of his own Abilities: Now it so fell out, that upon the Marriage of one of the Turks Daughters, great Sports and Shews were prepared, and all the Valiant Knights summoned to Exercise at Tilt and Turnament, in Honour of the Ladys, and of their Countries. This News pleased Aurelius so well, that he resolved to make one amongst them, and shew his Powers for the honour of the English Nation, against the proud Infidels, and thereupon provided Armour, a Horse, Sword, and Launce, bearing in his Shield a Golden Phoenix, to signifie he was a Subject to a Virgin Queen, and under it Neptune Bidding the Ocean, shewing that the Seas Sovereignty depended on her Will; as for his Armour, it was white, signifying Innocence.

Thus bravely accoutred, he hastened to the Tilt to await the Trumpets sound, where all the Nobles and Ladies were seated in their Degrees, clad in Gold and Gems, when on a sudden, three Turks well Mounted and Richly armed,

The Famous History of the

Advanced with their Mooned Shields, and with a loud voice, bid Defiance, as the Bridegrooms Champions, to all the Knights of Christendom; which made Aurelius mad to let them know what English Valour was; but perceiving the Champions of other Nations - preparing for the Encounter, he forbore till he might by a witness of their Fortune, and that his Honour might be the greater, in overcoming their overcomers, nor did amiss, for the Turks being of a Monstrous size, and well Managed to such Feats of Arms. at the first Encounter cast them from their Saddles, and so passed on, and did the like to three others, which made the bold Aurelius believe it was time for him to advance, and thereupon setting Spurs to his Horse, he met the foremost with a full stroke on his Breast, that it tumbled him with his heels upward, quite over the Crup, and passing on, it struck the second on the Crest with such force that he broke it, and the Lance entering his Brain, he fell breathless to the ground, which the third perceiving, who was of a Giant-like Stature, came up on him with his Sword, and with a full blow,

cut

Valiant London-Prentice.

cut through his Shield, and much bruised him, but he Charging furiously upon the Infidel, soon made him give ground, and after divers Wounds, obliged him to kiss the Earth, and beg quarter for his Life.

To revenge this disgrace of his Champions, the Turkish Prince, with the leave of his Father-in-Law, entered the List in great rage, and defied the bold Aurelius, Swearing by Mahomet, he would Chastize the great Affront, and with many reproachful words, bid him come on, upon which they set Spurs to their horses, and met with such fury, that their Launces burst, and shivered in the Air, when the Turkish Prince drew his Sword, but Aurelius neglecting to do the like. made at him with the Truncheon of his Spear, with which he gave him such a waighty blow on the top of his Helmet, that broke his Steel in sunder, and down he fel in a mortal trance; after which the Turks strained Complement, and none durst undertake the Valiant English Champion.

The Famous History of the

C H A P. IX.

How he destroyed two Lyons prepared to Devour him, and had the King's Daughter in Marriage.

The Great Turk upon notice that Prince Grodmon his Son-in-Law, whom he thought had only been stunn'd, was dead, vowed that Aurelius, whom he called English Boy, should dye the cruelest death that ever man dyed, and thereupon sent a strong Guard to seize him and convey him to Prison, till he consulted what manner of death to put him to, which in the end was concluded, that he should be cast alive to two Lyons, who to be the greedier in devouring, were kept fasting many days.

The day of his death, as by appointment being come, and the King, his Nobles, and all his Ladies seated to behold the Execution, the brave Aurelius was brought forth in a Shirt of Cambrick, and Drawers of white Satin, Embroidered with Gold, and a Crimson Cap on his head, but had scarce time to bow respectfully to the Ladies, who greatly praised his Manly Beauty, and began highly to pitty his misfortune,

tune, e're the Lyons were let loose, who at the sight of their prey, casting their eyes upon him, began to Roar horribly, insomuch that the Spectators trembled; but behold Aurelius, whom Death could not daunt, laying aside all fear, as they came fiercely at him with open mouth, charged his Hands into their Throats, and e're they had power to get from his strong Arms, forc'd out their Hearts, and lay'd them dead at his feet, demanding of the King what other dangerous Enterprizes they had to put on, and he would gladly do it for the Honour of his Queen and Countries sake; when immediately the Turk descending from his Throne, tenderly Embracing him, Swearing he was some Angel, withal, Pardon'd him, and gave Beauteous Theroza his Daughter in Marriage, with great Riches, who for his sake became a Christian; and after spending some time in that place, they both returned to England with great joy, where they lived many years very Loving and Happy.

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